

ELLEN CHARLTON.

JUNE 3, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 4446.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4446) granting an increase of pension to Ellen Charlton, have examined the same and all the evidence and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to increase from \$8 to \$12 per month the pension of Ellen Charlton, of Niles, Mich., the widow of Robert Charlton, who served in Company K, Twelfth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, from February 8, 1864, to June 17, 1865, when he was honorably discharged.

Soldier does not appear to have filed a claim for pension. He died November 15, 1880, and May 31, 1890, the widow filed a claim under the general law, which was rejected January 6, 1896, "on the ground of no record or medical or other evidence showing origin of death cause in the service."

July 26, 1890, she filed a claim under the act of June 27, 1890, and has been pensioned from that date at \$8 per month.

Soldier was treated while in the service, as shown by the records, for malarial fever and diarrhea. Evidence filed in the Pension Office shows that he suffered also from rheumatism while in service, and that at discharge he was suffering from both rheumatism and diarrhea, from which he continued to suffer, and by which he was greatly reduced.

Dr. Irwin Simpson testifies that he treated the soldier in his last illness, and that his death was caused by facial erysipelas, brought on directly by his debilitated condition and deteriorated blood, the result of chronic diarrhea and chronic rheumatism, for which he treated soldier for several years before his death. He considers the connection between the diseases contracted in the Army and the disease from which the soldier died to be undoubted and unmistakable, and that they not only contributed to but were the direct cause of his contracting the erysipelas from which he died.

In a slip dated December, 27, 1895, the medical referee of the Pension Office said:

That the fatal erysipelas was a specific disease, and therefore can not be accepted as having had a pathological relation with any disease of service origin.

Claimant is 70 years of age, and has no means of support except her pension of \$8 and the assistance of a daughter.

Your committee thinks the soldier's death was the indirect result of the army service, and so the bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass, when amended as follows:

In line 6, after the word "pension," insert the words "at the rate."

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Ellen Churlton."

